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Of *Pleuridium* there are 28 species described, and all but 10 from original specimens, but of these *P. Bolanderi* is from Chicago, and *P. Ravenelii* from Louisiana. *Astomum* is not completed in this fascicle, 18 species are described but none are figured. Thus far it does not look as if much new light were thrown on North American species, as a work of this magnitude and celerity cannot be very critical.

New York Botanical Garden.

*Part I was reviewed in the BRYOLOGIST, March, 1911.

POLYTRICHUM APPROACHING *P. SMITHIAE*

ELIZABETH M. DUNHAM

As so many members of the Moss Society were especially interested in the *Polytrichum* approaching *P. Smithiae* Grout which was recently "offered," the writer has obtained permission to give to all the benefit of the notes made by Prof. J. Franklin Collins after a careful examination of the material sent to him for determination.

Prof. Collins wrote as follows :

"Judging from a comparison with J. M. Holzinger's Musci Acrocarpi Boreali-Americani No. 50 which was distributed as 'Part of type' (of *Polytrichum Smithiae*), and from the description and figures of that species given by A. J. Grout in the BRYOLOGIST 6: 41. May, 1903), I should say, in general, that your No. 807 was pretty good *P. Smithiae* in its sporophytic characters, but depauperate *P. Ohioense* in its gametophytic characters. Your specimens appear to differ from *P. Smithiae* principally (1) in lacking the slender stems with closely appressed leaves (see fig. 10, plate VIII, l. c.) which so strongly suggest *P. strictum*, (2) in having 38 to 40 lamellae instead of about 32, (3) in leaves reaching a length of 6.5 mm. (excluding the sheath), widely spreading or slightly recurved when moist, loosely appressed and with spreading tips when dry, much after the style of fig. 2, plate VIII (l. c.).

Renauld and Cardot in the Revue Bryologique (12: 12, 1885) give the lamellae of *P. Ohioense* as 40 to 50, 5 to 7 cells high. Grout in the BRYOLOGIST (l. c.) says of *P. Smithiae* 'lamellae about 32, four to six cells high.' Your specimens, so far as I have examined them, show 38 to 40 lamellae, five cells high. Thus in the number of lamellae, as well as in other characters mentioned above, your specimens come nearer to *P. Ohioense* than to *P. Smithiae*.

In measurements of length only of both sporophyte and gametophyte your plants fall well within the measurements given for *P. Smithiae* (l. c.), as may be seen from the following summary of measurements made from 47 of your specimens. Shortest gametophyte 9 mm., longest 29 mm.; of these there were 7 between 9 and 13 mm.,

22 between 14 and 18 mm., 3 between 19 and 21 mm., 12 between 22 and 25 mm. and 3 between 26 and 29 mm. Shortest sporophyte 11 mm., longest 30 mm.; of these there were 2 between 11 and 15 mm., 13 between 16 and 21 mm., 25 between 22 and 25 mm., and 7 between 26 and 30 mm. Capsule length, 3 from 2, 8 to 3 mm., and 44 between 3 and 4 mm. The longest deoperculate capsule measures a scant 4 mm.

A CORRECTION

REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR.

In my list of the "Lichens of Mount Monadnock, New Hampshire," (Amer. Nat. 40: 664. 1906) I included no. 46 *Ephebe solida* Born. Before publishing the list, as stated in the preface, I had forwarded the "Cladonias, and. . . several other specimens" to Prof. Bruce Fink for determination, as I felt myself incompetent to determine them. In a letter dated April 6, 1906, Prof. Fink wrote me concerning this specimen: "Possibly *Ephebe solida*, but probably an alga. Look for fungal hyphae with oil immersion lens." Not having such a lens, and being only moderately versed in plant histology, I turned naturally to my former college teacher, Dr. Herbert M. Richards, and asked him if he would be good enough to examine the material for fungal hyphae, the very presence of which it appeared to me would settle the plant as *Ephebe solida*. Under date of May 30, 1906, Dr. Richards wrote me "On examining the specimen of the questionable *Ephebe* from Mt. Monadnock with a 1-16 Leitz I could certainly detect the presence of a septate mycelium covering the *Stigonema*. I suppose, therefore, it must be a lichen." On this entirely insufficient evidence I included the plant in my list, having made sure in Tuckerman that the plant had been previously collected in this part of New England. In my statement "determined through the kindness of Dr. Richards" I especially used the word "through" rather than "by" to relieve Dr. Richards of any technical responsibility in determining lichen species.

Now that five years have passed, and I have largely confined my lichen studies and responsibilities to the family *Usneaceae*, I have felt doubtful of this determination, and have been desirous of setting the matter right, especially as I feared that perhaps I had involved Dr. Richards in a wholly unconscious way. Consequently some weeks ago I sent the material to Dr. Lincoln W. Riddle for his opinion; he kindly reports as follows under date of March 17, 1911. "I have now studied your '*Ephebe*' as carefully as my time would permit. I have no material of *E. solida* for comparison, but feel quite sure that this is not that species. In fact, I doubt if it is an *Ephebe* at all."

"There is considerable discrepancy between Tuckerman's description of *E. solida* and Bornet's original description. Your material agrees superficially with Tuckerman's description, but Bornet says 'Les filaments sont assez gros, *peu* ramifiés.' (your material is much branched) then 'les cellules de leur partie intérieure sont de deux sortes : les unes sont étroites, flexueuses et rayonnantes ; les autres, très grandes, arrondies, ressemblent, sur une coupe transversale, a l'ouverture de gros vaisseaux.' I have cut sections of your material and the cells do not correspond to this description. I find that the filaments of the *Stigonema* are intertangled with fungus filaments which are, however, external and not growing through the alga as should be the case in an *Ephebe*. Further the alga is evidently not in good condition. It was undoubtedly these fungus filaments which Dr. Richards saw when he reported to you that such filaments were present. The conclusion which I have reached after studying your material and comparing it with specimens of *Ephebe pubescens* and *E. mamillosum* in our herbarium, is that your specimens are *Stigonema*, rather degenerate and parasitized by some hyphomycetous fungus."

I regret very much that this erroneous record should have stood in print for nearly five years, as I realize very keenly how misleading such published data are, and moreover how common such false records are in our North American lichenological literature. In this case I have no excuses to offer, and assume the entire responsibility.

Thoreau Museum, Concord, Massachusetts.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

(To Society members only. Be sure to send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.)

Dr. John W. Bailey, 4541 14th Ave. N. E., Seattle, Wash.—*Dichelyma uncinatum* var. *cylindricarpum* Card.

Rev. James Hansen, St. Johns University, Collegeville, Minn.—*Amblystegium riparium* B. & S.

H. S. Jewett, M. D., 15 W. Monument Ave., Dayton, Ohio.—*Brachythecium cyrtophyllum* Kindb. *Mnium cuspidatum* (L.) Leyss., from the vicinity of Dayton. *Grimmia Doniana* Sm. *Swartzia montana* (Lamk.) Lindb., from Colorado.

Prof. A. S. Foster, Pacific Beach, Chevalis Co., Wash.—*Pterygophyllum lucens* (L.) Brid. *Ulotia phyllantha* Brid.

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Dunham, 324 Center St., Auburndale, Mass.—*Anomodon attenuatus* (Schreb.) Hueben. *Leucodon brachypus* Brid.

W. W. Calkins, Berwyn, Illinois.—*Amblystegium Juratzkanum* Schimp. *Orthotrichum strangulatum* Sulliv.